

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /086 W

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R 261243Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5820

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

USMTM DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1647

E.O. 11652: GCS

TAGS: PINT, MASS, YE, SA, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET-YARG MILITARY RELATIONSHIP

1. IN LONG SESSION ON NIGHT OF JUNE 24, DEPUTY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND CHIEF OF STAFF AHMED GHASHMI TOLD THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR AND ME THAT PRESSURES FROM SOVIETS HAVE INCREASED OVER SEVERAL WEEKS WITH LATTER ATTEMPTING IN HEAVY-HEADED WAY TO ASCERTAIN WHAT YEMEN'S POLICY WILL BE TOWARDS SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORS. GHASHMI SAID THAT BACKGROUND FOR SOVIET IMPORTUNINGS HAS BEEN SPATE OF RECENT RUMORS THAT YEMEN DEFINITELY INTENDS TO TURN TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE CONTINUED THAT MAIN REASON, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN JUNE 14 INTERVIEW HE GAVE TO EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER, AHKBAR AL-YOM, IN WHICH INTER ALIA HE CRITICIZED
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THE SOVIET UNION FOR NOT PROVIDING YEMEN WITH

MODER MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND INDICATED THAT YEMEN IS "THINKING ABOUT TERMINATING" THE SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORY TEAM IN YEMEN WHILE NOTING THAT ONLY LACK OF FUNDS HAS THUS FAR PREVENTED FINAL ACTION IN THIS REGARD.

2. GHASHMI CONTINUED THAT ON MORNING OF JUNE 24TH, THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORY TEAM, GENERAL (FNU) KARIMENKO CAME TUHIM IN A HUFF AND ASKED FOR "AN EXPLANATION" OF THE ABOVE INTERVIEW. GHASHMI TOLD HIM THAT EVERYTHING HE HAD SAID WAS "CLEAR AND TRUE NOT REQUIRING ANY DEBATE." THE GENERAL THEN ASKED IF YEMEN INTENDS TO SEEK MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER SOURCES SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA AND GHASHMI REPLIED "MY DEPENDENCE IS ON GOD AND ON SAUDIA ARABIA IF IT IS SINCERE". THE GENERAL THEN PRESSED AND ASKED WHAT YEMEN INTENDS TO DO ABOUT YEMENIS TRAINING IN THE SOVIET UNION. GHASHMI REPLIED THAT HE INTENDS TO "WITHDRAW EVERYBODY IN RUSSIA AND DISMISS EVERYBODY WHO HAS HAD THEIR EDUCATION IN RUSSIA, BECAUSE THEY ARE OF NO USE EITHER TO US OR TO ANYBODY AND THIS INCLUDES THE AIR PILOTS." GHASHMI CONTINUED THAT THE SOVIET GENERAL WAS QUITE ANGRY AT HIS REPLIES AND STORMED OUT OF HIS OFFICE.

3. GHASHMI SAID HE DOES NOT CARE WHAT THE SOVIETS THINK BECAUSE HE AND PRESIDENT HAMDI REALLY WANT TO BE RID OF THEM AND SOON. THE PROBLEM REMAINS THE CONTINUED DILATORINESS OF SAUDI ARABIA WHICH HAS NOT YET COME FORTH WITH CONCRETE PLANS FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE YEMENI ARMY WITH US EQUIPMENT. GHASHMI ADDED THAT AS OF NOW THE SAUDIS HAVE STILL NOT AGREED TO A VISIT BY A YEMENI MILITARY TEAM HEADED BY HIM TO RIAYDH FOLLOWING THE VISIT BY THE YEMENI PRIME MINISTER WHICH IS NOW SET FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. GHASHMI IN ALMOST PLEADING MANNER ASKED BOTH THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR AND ME TO CONVEY TO OUR GOVERNMENTS THE NEED FOR SPEEDY SAUDI ACTION, POINTING OUT THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOW BEEN GIVEN A CLEAR SIGN BY THE YEMENIS OF THEIR INTENTION TO LOOK TO THE WEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IF THAT ASSISTANCE IS NOT SOON FORTH-
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COMING, HOWEVER, IT WILL PUT PRESIDENT HAMDI AND HIS GOVERNMENT IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION.

5. COMMENT. AS IF TO UNDERSCORE HIS SINCERITY, GHASHMI PROVIDED ME WITH A COPY OF THE JUNE 14 ISSUE OF AHKBAR AL YOM IN WHICH HIS INTERVIEW APPEARED. AT MY REQUEST, HE ALSO GAVE ME A HAND-WRITTEN MEMO IN ARABIC LISTING HIS REPLIES TO GENERAL KARIMENKO WHICH ARE GIVEN ABOVE. I MUST

SAY I SYMPATIZE WITH GHASHMI WHEN HE SAYS THAT HE DOES
NOT KNOW WHAT MORE THE YARG MUST DO TO DEMONSTRATE
TO ITS SAUDI BROTHERS YEMEN'S SINCERE DESIRE TO
COOPERATE FULLY WITH SAUDI ARABIA AGAINST LEFTIST
EXTREMISM AND SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE PENINSULA.
SCOTES

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